

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Entry of this Amendment pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.312 is respectfully requested.

In this Amendment, independent claims 1 and 59 are amended for clarification purposes, namely, to rearrange the subject matter added by the Examiner's Amendment. Claims 49-52 and 70-72 are amended to be consistent with the changes to claims 1 and 59 and/or for clarification purposes.

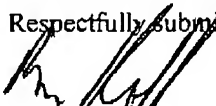
No further search or examination by the Examiner is required as a result of the changes to the specification or claims and no new matter is being introduced by the changes to the claims.

As for comments considered necessary, the applicant hereby states that although claims 1 and 59 recite that the first end of the filament is clamped while the second end is free, the term "clamping" encompassing any type of manner in which the first end is secured to prevent it from being drawn into the bowel through the opening in the bowel wall. This includes, for example, holding the first end of the filament, this feature being set forth in claims 50 and 70). Thus, use of a surgical clamp or other clamping instrument is not required to satisfy the step of clamping the first end of the filament in accordance with the invention.

As the issue fee is being paid simultaneously herewith, no fee is due for the presentation of this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.312.

An early and favorable action on the entry of this Amendment is earnestly solicited.

FOR THE APPLICANT
Respectfully submitted,


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